

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS THE FATHER OF NEVADA

### Story of the Admission of the "Battle-born" State Into the Union.

Nevada, especially, holds dear the memory of Lincoln, for it was through the acts of that great man that statehood was thrust upon us and we were welcomed into a joint unity when, in fact, we were in our swaddling clothes.

Justice Frank Norcross, in his article, "Nevada: Battle-Born," tells the story that should be known to every Nevadan and which we take pleasure in presenting:

"Here is the alternative; that we carry this vote, or be compelled to raise another million, and I don't know how many more men, and fight no one knows how long."

Thus spoke Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, relative to the vote, shortly to be taken in the house of representatives upon the question of admission of the territory of Nevada into the union as a sovereign state "upon an equal footing with the original states."

The words of President Lincoln, above quoted, were used in a conversation with Mr. Charles A. Dana, then assistant secretary of war, and the whole account of this conversation, as related by Mr. Dana in his book, "Recollections of the Civil War," is most interesting:

"The administration had decided that the constitution of the United States should be amended so that slavery should be prohibited. This was not only a change in our national policy, it was also a most important military measure. It was intended not merely as a means of abolishing slavery forever, but as a means of affecting the judgment and the feeling and the anticipations of those in rebellion. It was believed that such an amendment to the constitution would be equivalent to new armies in the field, that it would be worth at least a million men, that it would be an intellectual army that would tend to paralyze the enemy and break the continuity of his ideas."

"In order thus to amend the constitution, it was necessary, first to have the proposed amendment approved by three-fourths of the states. When that question came to be considered, the issue was seen to be so close that one state more was necessary. The state of Nevada was organized and admitted into the union to answer that purpose. I have sometimes heard people complain of Nevada as superfluous and petty, not big enough to be a state; but when I hear that complaint, I always hear Abraham Lincoln saying, 'It is easier to admit Nevada than to raise another million of soldiers.'"

"In March, 1864, the question of allowing Nevada to form a state government finally came in the house of representatives. There was

strong opposition to it. For a long time beforehand the question had been canvassed anxiously. At last, late one afternoon, the president came into my office, in the third story of the war department. He used to come there sometimes rather than send for me, because he was fond of walking and liked to get away from the crowds in the White House. He came in and shut the door.

"Dana," he said, "I am very anxious about this vote. It has got to be taken next week. The time is very short. It is going to be a great deal closer than I wish it was."

"There are plenty of democrats who will vote for it," I replied. "There is James E. English of Connecticut; I think he is sure, isn't he?"

"Oh, yes; he is sure on the merits of the question."

"Then," said I, "there's 'Sunset' Cox of Ohio. How is he?"

"He is sure and fearless. But there are some others that I am not clear about. There are three that you can deal with better than anybody else perhaps, as you know them all. I think it would be well if you would send for them."

"He told me who they were; I isn't necessary to repeat the names here. One man was from New Jersey and two from New York."

"What will they be likely to want?" I asked.

"I don't know," said the president; "I don't know. It makes no difference, though, what they want. Here is the alternative; we must carry this vote or be compelled to raise another million, and I don't know how many more men, and fight no one knows how long. It is a question of three votes or new armies."

"Got All They Asked."

"Well, sir," said I, "but whatever promise you make them I will perform."

"I sent for the men and saw them one by one. I found that they were afraid of their party. They said that some fellows in the party would be down on them. Two of them wanted internal revenue collectors' appointments. 'You shall have it,' I said. Another one wanted a very important appointment about the custom-house of New York. I knew the man well whom he wanted to have appointed. He was a republican though the congressman was a democrat. I had served with him in the republican county committee of New York. The office was worth perhaps, twenty thousand dollars a year. When the congressman stated the case, I asked him, 'Do you want that?'"

"Yes," he said.

"Well," I answered, "you shall have it."

"I understand, of course," said he, "that you are not saying this on your own authority?"

"Oh, no," said I; "I am saying it on the authority of the president."

"Well, these men voted that Nevada be allowed to form a state government, and thus they helped secure the vote which was required. The next October the president signed the proclamation admitting the state. In February following Nevada was one of the states which ratified the thirteenth amendment by which slavery was abolished by constitutional prohibition in all of the United States. I have always felt that this little piece of side politics was one of the most judicious, humane, and wise uses of executive authority that I ever assisted in or witnessed."

That Mr. Lincoln had in view the making of a state out of the western portion of Utah for the double purpose of insuring the abolition of slavery by amendment to the constitution, and to gain the support in congress of the representatives of another loyal state, long before Nevada was actually admitted, is now quite evident. What comprises the state was originally Carson county, Utah territory.

In 1861 it was cut off from the domain of Brigham Young and made the territory of Nevada.

Mr. Lincoln appointed as governor James W. Nye of New York; as secretary of the new territory, Orion Clemens, the brother of Mark Twain. Nye was the personal and political friend of Mr. Lincoln, and his selection as governor was another illustration of Mr. Lincoln's estimation of capabilities of men. Nye had been prominent both as a lawyer and jurist in the state of New York, and was the first president of the metropolitan board of police of New York City.

He is said to have been one of the most persuasive political campaign orators of his day. During the Lincoln campaign he accompanied William H. Seward upon a stumping tour of the western states. He is mentioned along with Thomas Star King, the orator-clergyman of San Francisco, as performing heroic work in keeping California and Nevada steadfast for the union during the war.

The discovery of the Comstock lode made Nevada a prize worth the while of any government, and it is claimed that David S. Terry, of Terry-Broderick duel fame, carried the commission of Jefferson Davis as governor of Nevada, and that he was only waiting the opportune moment to assume authority.

What might have been the result to the nation, had Nevada come under the control of the confederacy, would be difficult to imagine. If the half-billion dollars of gold and silver, which the mines of Nevada produced during and in the years immediately following the civil war, would have been diverted to the confederate treasury and Nevada have become a confederate state, then might the fears of President Lincoln have been realized and the north have been "compelled to raise another million, and I don't know how many more men, and fight no one knows how long."

Sunday was the one hundredth and second anniversary of that beloved immortal American, Abraham Lincoln. There was not a state in this grand union of ours that did not commemorate the birth of this martyred president. His name will go down in history for generations to come and well that it should.

Assemblyman Jones of Clark county must have a desire to acquire the enmity of all the youths of the state. He expects to father a measure that will prevent the discharging of firecrackers, toy cannons, toy pistols and other contrivances of a like nature by minors on the Fourth of July. He promises to be a much hated man among the small boys, who have heretofore made the nation's birthday a jubilant occasion.

#### LANDER LEASERS FINDING RICH PAY STREAKS

Leasers are taking out shipping ore in the Frost section of the workings of the Austin Manhattan company. This ore is being sacked for shipment. An unverified report was received recently that one of these leasers was in a body of ore worth 4000 ounces in silver or the equivalent of \$2000 in gold. All the leasers on this property are very much encouraged with the results of their work so far.—Revelle.

#### GAMBLING IN CARSON CITY.

There is evidently some gambling going on in Carson City and it ought to be stopped, if the following conversation overheard by an Appeal reporter, immediately after the adjournment of the district court Friday, is true:

First Depositor in the State Bank & Trust Co.: "What kind of a game are they playing up there?"

Second Depositor: "I think they are playing poker for the jackpot."

Third Depositor: "Either that or freeze-out."

Fourth Depositor: "If they were playing with their own money the game wouldn't last so long."—Carson Appeal.

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